SHAKER COLLECTION

Item 336 a

Autobiography of Susanna Cole Liddell,
Union Village, Ohio, 1879

pages 1-85

Inclosed is something what
I call my story Or
Susanna McPhaterss

M 1

[Ac. 975]

BUCKEYE

The
Following Pages
Which
We prefer to entitle
"Susanna the Shakeress"
are
Very Respectfully presented
by
The Writer

"The ransomed of the Lord shall
return, and come to Zion with songs
and everlasting joy upon their heads"
Isaiah.

Union Village
Warren county
Ohio
1879

"The night had closed in Susanna's fair home
And no streaming rays from the skies airy dome
Transmitted their glow through the darkness below
Beneath the dense veil could no imagery show
The weather vanes twirled with the breeze arm in arm
In emblem of rooster and cow of the farm
Through blank on her sight were their tireless play
For the stormy clouds that stood in the way
"The tramping of horse unheard in the stable
The sheep folded in as babes of the cradle
The squealing of pigs or the moaning of cows
The dainties slumberer could not arouse
The fowls and the pigeons they too were now still
All animal life seemed tranquil of will
No opening of latch nor slip in the hall
Disturbed this silence that reigned over all
"Amid this stillness her thoughts entered flight
Careering beyond and in twilight sight
Through often she tried to recall them again
Till she was exhausted by effortless aim
There seemed a something preventing her say
Decoying her senses in fathomless way
Unconscious becoming of all earthly care
Her mother then came and she knew not from where
"The card of Susanna's she held in hand
With names of officials who were in command
From State Indiana the county of Clay
Addressed by the clerk in the finest display
Twas John W. ++a man of the law
Her mother selected Susanna she saw

* see part 3rd page 35

Then with penetration reviewed intent
Convictions of trust from her countenance went

Susanna's Third visit* of her mother

She opened the record embraced in her hold
That told of events the new and the old
And page after page of her book she then turned
Portraying the things that Susanna discerned
And others which memory had failed to retain
Bore time on her record her time to remain
Or till the last farthing of wrong be retraced
Then from her life's journal it should be erased

First picture in the book

She stands by her husband as true as the dove
And his strong protection her soul seems to move
Hope ecstatic joy bears her thoughts on its wing
And soars where the pure blissful elements sing
But time calms these raptures adown to adore
Delighting to serve' comes her mind more and more
And blesses her toil in full every day
In her small domain where is given her way

Second picture in the book

The young father rises his manhood is bright
His bosom's eyes (impurity) a clear warming light
The arms of his first born are hung on his neck
Her kisses bedewing that he does not check
She clings to her father whenever he is near
And thinks him the most in all the world dear

* See page 84

Their childhood caresses do well suit his vein
Relaxing his thoughts from the wild horses' rein
"For Isaac was fleetest on horses' back raid
Throughout all this country then as it was said
And that time, was colts on which he first bounded
And o'er field and forest in swift speed sounded
Their light hoofs inuring to discipline game
The best horse made and easiest to tame

" " "

"The first born has grown to pick flowers that drop
The girl that is hired intends this to stop
And minister vengeance which makes it to dance
When scream after scream of "A Belay + + + + + + "
The father brings in and he takes up the child
And walks in the yard where the weather is mild
The cheek of the mother is colored to rose
But true to her nature does not interpose

" " " " "

"This dark bird had come on division to feed
As dark birds do come to the crib in their greed
The father beguiled by the evil bird's sway
By her was ensnared and borne far away
Where his children's greetings ceased on his ear
And their mother's welcomes so kindly and dear
His soul panted them for his home and its care
The evil bird planned he should not be there
"To share in his future she was as intent
As on Samson's strength fair Delilah was bent
But he did return to the green wooded wild
Where his little ones and their mother had smiled

At hearing his steps coming in at the door
And wished the same to meet now as afore
"The bird flieth over and lighteth on his handle
And upon his comforts she maketh her demandle
Till back she retaketh him to her gloomy shade
Which she has so darkly and so wily made

"The father now gone whom the mother ador'd
Her poor little children in anguish explor'd
For how could she feed them and get them along
This is her anguish her sorrowful song
An work she well knows that she must depend
And her little ones alone must attend
And the Saviour's sufferings came in a host
And he who deni'd him she saw vow'd the most

"From friends she gets work with the needle to do
And two pair of pants in a day she would sew
Including the piece that she took from the night
And three off for gentlemen six feet in height
And long woollen rolls on the big wheel she spun
From rising of morn to the setting of sun
For three runs of warp her reel cracked the day
In many a rainy or clear Summer's day

"And flax in the winter her fingers did ply
Pulling its fibers from the wound distaff high
Her dress at times sprink. ling with tears from her eye
The while she was spinning and heaving sad sighs
This brings in the children that hurriedly press
Around their dear mother and by to caress
Till she must divide them one from the other
Their fat creased arms and crowding do smother

Tom Wiley the uncle has changed his home
And with his strong team to the mother does come
And moves her to where his old buildings near
That she being conscious her brothers are near
Might in some measure assuage her forebodings of fear
The voice of the screech owl not seem so drear
Not start at the fall of a bough on the hill
Nor screams of the water fowls echoings shrill

"The mother's messinge at starting on the way
In the forest cleared where Isaac home made
Which we are departing is fresh wholesome glade"
She said to herself while memories parade
And entered the wagon neath covering shade
But lingered her look on the leaving expanse
The vibrating sunbeams recede and advance
"Those days" she now pondered "As they rose and set
Were bright and as rich as my eyes ever met
"The untiring labor of Isaac there fed
Ourselves and our children with fullness of bread
And every prospective want in the future
Had promise begun in pulsiing treasure
And summer's pure emerald in canopied scope
Was verdant and fair as our castles of hope

As antelopes 'mid Rings from ledge unto ledge
Or skips over precipitous dangerous edge
So Isaac on horse sped from summit to rills
Of the gently mountainous clay soil hills
But now like a sound on aerial breeze
Or tempest approaching that comes through the trees

So does Isaac's voice seem to warn on my ear
With something prophetic would tell me to hear
"Here Wiley now points to his old home he sees
The children are catching a glimse through the trees
He's told them of many strange things on the road
Of persons and places and their new abode
"The mother she says when a pause intervenes
"The home to us loaned has various scenes
And two of your uncles we will live between'
Then tenderly looked on the baby to wean
"The uncle now lifted them out one by one
The door standing open the children in run
The day's longest shadows were quivering slow
And faintly were spanning the streamlet below
That bounded the yard of their new domicil
Where ducks and the hovering geese dropped quil

...

"Tick's weariless time its province to measure
Its sorrows left in and brings in its pleasure
The rain forces in through the cracks of the door
And sends the warm sunshine in shafts on the flo
"Its loud thunders roar till the children all cry
Its lightnings flash over their house and the sky
In days and in months they know not the full numbe
When comes from afar an uncle and brother
"Tis Edward he comes from the city about
When it is submerged by flood in and out
He comes with two brothers in young farmers' health Indigenous —
To tell that the father his children will take
At least the two oldest he was heard to state
"The uncle's stern brothers who live near by
Are threatening with coloring avenging eye

That should Isaac come their guns they would fill
At sight of his face his blood they would spill
"The mother shed tears of deep sorrow and grief
Her brother's combativeness gives no relief
She wishes no harm unto Isaac be done
The girl that was hired desires to them
"O tell me my children to her nier shall go
Give me but this promise that well I may know
That you will defend them when I am gone hence
O keep not my spirit one day in suspense"
"They gave her this promise in fullest of words
That they would defend if by pistols and swords
If no calmer method the case would afford
Her children with them should have shelter and board
"For some premonition of death it so seem'd
The pallor that died of pale else in vision it gleam'd
That should ere long find her unending rest
And that her dear children be cared for she press'd
"A new inspiration illumin'd her face
Reflections the finest in mantling brace
Diffused a comfort that stranger to woe
A heavenly light in her features did glow
"And reason'd she long of what little is known
Save in revelations dim narative shown
In Biblical hist'ry, myth' poetical lore
Of the Holy City and celestial shore
"But Isaac has brothers as well as has she
And one thinks him worthy his children to see
And gives him a horse in the forest to stray
That they in the woods might be out at their play

"And in lucky hour upon them might come
When out of the sight of their inmates at home
Silas he sees and calls that comes on the run
Now drops him a dollar for friendship begun

"Then asks him his age and what all he can do
What kind of employment would rather pursue
If going to school would not suit him the best"
The chubby hand taking and fondly caress'd

"The horse the boy stroked guessing his hands high
And showing delighted began to reply
When his uncle Wiley appear'd at the door
The father wheeled horse he dar'd say no more

"In stature was Wiley six feet from the floor
His weight two hundred and fifty and more
His locks were as jet as the dark ravens wing
Unshorn was his beard on his vest it did swing

"Mules he has and horses and cattle for sale
The people affirm any wrestler can flail
His eye has the flash of his high prancing steed
On horseback at racings he can take the lead

"While ciling in search of his brother in law
His watch held in hand as the children them saw
And hunting his pockets with thumb on its spring
As counting the minutes for some angel thing

"He look'd north and south and he look'd east {west
Stepping to and fro for position the best
The children they two for their father do spy
For there is a rumor he is somewhere nigh

"The mother flies past them and into the wood
For Silas is missing she now understood

The snow her hair powders with its falling white
As through its cold driftings she fleeth in flight
"Her Silas now hears for the air is all still
'Twas pleasure to him to make echoing trill
His face she soon meets on the sloping hill side
His hand he extended in triumphant pride
She clasp'd 'round his shoulders to hasten his gait
He tries while returning his story to state"

A man on a horse said he was my father
Gave me this dollar was getting another
But saw uncle Wiley towards him to look
And turn'd on his horse and the snow off him shook
And then he put spurs and was soon out of sight
Behind the grape vines where there is little light
A place on his horse he was fixing for me
Like uncle John's horses that I like to see"

"

"Consumption's slyly work on the vitals to seek
Of that grieved mother so pale and so weak
That life grown so fragile and so over worn
And soon to the grave is the thin body borne

"The forest in bud and the fruit trees in bloom
In vernal nature when the grave gives the room
To sister the mother and wife lowerd down
Where monuments near and green sward wear ices (crown

"The father's first brother had the slow horse brought
Convey'd was the body to its resting spot
In Lebanon Ohio her county seat
And laid in the grave in quiet retreat

- He wept over the body in life time so true
And led forth the children to take the last view

Of their breathless mother awaiting her fate
Depth in the wet earth time last tendered care
"(Beside of his parents in earth delved anew
Since purchased by him Susanna she learns
And there is her grave beside of his mother's
And three on each side lies Isaac's tall brothers
Save Isaac himself is the family all there
In life and in death exiled from their fare)
"Her people the children divided around
At home with themselves for all four are found
Then visiting each the one to the other
Was given the time to wean from the mother
"Susanna for riding and visiting went
Soon with a good lady* to stay is content
She tall kept of cookery and fine table spread
While horses and wagon towards her home sped

III III

"Susanna was measuring the yard with her feet
When past came a stage past the reapers of wheat
It stopped before the good lady's red gate
A gentleman's lighting there from calling 'wait'
"He's dressed in blue broadcloth he stands upright
The sun on his high beaver hat shining bright
A cow hat in his hand and wiping his brow
She glanced the stranger and then made a bow'
"The porch he ascended he is tall and fair
Now questions Susanna why she should be there
She looked on his hair dark brown straight and fine
Thick over the top head and parted in line
"Do you not remember yet quite who I am'
On his flushed face again she looked calm

* sister to uncle Riley's wife

"Observing the waves that rippled his skin
And that his nose was long and Roman and thin
On his scarlet features and large liquied eyes
Changing blue or gray as his blood had its rise

"Do you not remember me Susanna say'
Her voice that had seemed in her ears gave way
"Yes uncle David' she said rather doubting
For answer she thought must come out of something

"I'm not uncle David I am your father'
And taking her hand and drawing her nearer
Was pressing her to his emotional skin
His electric heart rippling here from within

"The lady appeared and fearful of harm
Ran screaming and sounding a grievous alarm
She called to her sons to come in from the field
Who entered the stage with Susanna concealed

"The yellow wheels rolled in on going speed
Detained by the father's mysterious deed
The lady saw crying and wringing her hands
Her attitude dying as distance expands

"When in Cincinnati the stage let them out
And after a while of their winding about
They went in a room where as funeral knell
The foreboding picture on Susanna fell

"The whole was revealed in ominous sight
Her mother now Betsey or died she judge right
For blanched there a woman as sheet on the bed
Because Isaac's hand through the house the girl led

"As icicles coursing from the head to the feet
So was the performance of Betsey to greet

"Her uncle she knew lived there in the city
And that for her mother he had great pity
She was tempted strongly to flee to the street
And wander and wander till him she would meet
"The father discovered her struggle within
And in tender manner he then did begin

+ + + + + + + + + + +

"Your mother is dead you need have no other"
Now bursted the sorrow she'd tried to smother
By his kind relief subdued so cleaver
For none other could she call mother ever
"He talked of her mother in tenderness ever
And promised no harshness she ever should meet
And that he would take her to see the steamboat
That on the large river beautifully floats.

"The father now misses the hurrying throng
Departed in the mornings to his days work long
Then time moved slowly and heavily on
And cheerless is noon as a damp murky dawn
"Even listless and tedious the clock seemed to say
'I bring out my ditty and then go away'
To come in her window seemed careless the sun
As one a thing irksome is willing to shun

"They had a small garden Susanna there stayed
Mostly in the red currants bushes faint shade
Day after day of the warm sweltering weather
For absense from Belsey was her endeavor
"With Belsey alone in the house she's afraid
All wrongs and mishaps, ning to her there are laid

She scolds her and slaps her for 'gazing' she says
Which brings the remembrance of her mother's ways

One day

"From work comes the father unwell and unseen
And hears Betsey sentencing something as mean
Susanna commands from the room out the door
"Every day" saying "What book she has wore"
"Susanna sat weeping on the cellar way stair
Outside of the house in the sun's blazing glare
Her father's quick step brought him near to her side
Sadly he said "Betsey and you must divide"
"And then he continued "Why are you here
And what have you done to be treated severe"
She looked in his face but feared to speak
For still she heard Betsey in angry shriek
"Susanna he led by the hand where she was
"I would like to know" inquired for what cause
Susanna must be order'd into the heat
And there, sun at the hottest on her bare head to beat"
"I will not bear that look" she said
Unappall'd in wrathful ire
That ever mimicing the dead
Stifling all mould, ring fire
On every absent minded thought
She that image must create
Ere on my revery be brought
Unsolv'd mystery of fate"
(Now led her up to his room legal and sunny
Where evenings he taught her how to count money
His recreation she enjoy'd in his room
And watch'd when his day's work was done for him home

Her uncle she knew

At turning the grocery corner in sight
To meet him would run whether raining or bright
And often her hand held more than his finger
'For seldom he failed something to bring her')

'I'd like to enquire now into affairs'
Meaning the pennies pray down stairs
The father now questioned raising his head
His shaped cheek showed the course the tears led

'For what does she generally blame you the most
I think she believes that I keep mother's ghost
And it has a way to look through me at her
And every time she thinks this to occur

She slaps me and says I am mean so to pierce
Through her medicaleens so hateful and fierce'

'How often has she slapped you for the offence
Of you to your mother bearing resemblence'

She wishing to make it as fair as she could
Discerning a change of unfavorable mood
Replied 'Only four times in a day sometimes'
This fired his spirit like one seeing crimes

'She wished on this subject now no more to say
And tried to find topic to turn it away
To all future questions excuses she made
And Betsy's worst cruelties were not betray'd

... ...

'Susanna's room door that night being open
She heard many things in sentenses broken
Her heart was agrieved because she was there
Her mother's requests violated all were

'She did not want Betsy her children to guide
Her brothers had promised for them to provide

She heard now You shall not much longer shadow
Susanna for merely the turn of eye
I ask you Betty in speaking of that day
When first I brought Susanna with us to play
Where is the healthful exuberance of mind
That marked her racing step like cat or hound
When in her child glee I first saw her play
Through opening stage and my heart then did pray
That God giving aid I might secure my own
And she to worldly simpleness live unknown
And where the firm assurance her countenance spoke
When first on her attention my voice awoke
Where's her cloudless brow that courage wore
When my hand at Hountsville her heavy locke struck
Where is the young life's spring filled to its brim
The lissom grace of child hood that moved each limb
The ruddy teeming face changeable in gleam
Where seemed then invention of unmatched scheme
'In that you do yourself portray'
Sounded in resentful mood
'You're seen in some inverted way
Or startling in some prelude
Which none can understand the game
Nor penetrate thy castle heights
No mortal on this earth is to blame
Who cannot scale your air heights'
'Your rule with Susanna will underling make
And some different plan I must undertake
By which I can trust she'll be cared for aright
And not have her talents exposed to blight

She has to her father never complained
And when he's at home her grief has restrained
The eyes of her mother were in woman true
And what fault of hers is a likeness you view"
I'd sooner have thrown on my soul
She vented in pregnant spleen
Than her mother's eyes on me roll
Want never to see her mien
Susanna is solid and fat
And strong for one of her age
"Tis useless your this and your that
Because of her parentage
"Tis Susanna's gazing I hate
As through me thoughtful she espied
I've invited her for it of late
And box'd her ears till she cried
Like owl on ~~a~~ the ~~key~~ bough
That sees in the darkness of night
Comes gleimses of that woman's brow
In unenterpretted light
Convey'd in the entering look
Of Susanna always still
As though some alliance to brook
Or some compromise pulpit"

"The magic wand of silence when cast over all
And in Betsy's room heard the blind curtain fall
An augmenting strangeness of fear more and more
Possess'd her and she went and fasten'd the door
"Then Susanna's feelings went to her home first
"For ills twain endearments her spirit did pierce
But this meditation changed on her view
By shadowy ladies coming in two and two

"Now around her bed passing all dressed in white
She knew that she locked her door safe and tight
One lady slipped over and fell at her feet
"They're ghostly now she thought and feared them hugely
Now was spoken
"To your aunt Susanna you hasten to go
I would that the others my wishes could know"
(She meaning her three younger children elsewhere
And stood in her count'nance less precious they were
"Something dispersed Susanna she thought
Remained from their presence of what they had brought
Was left in the air as they floated away
"Twas her mother's still, rance not illusive fay
"But she was much scar'd at her pray'r coming true
And now harder pray'd that it might not renew
When her feet were fingered to know whether cold
"To know whether cold" was the thought her mind told
"She turned in affright throwing back the bed clothes
The mother same instant from her feet arose
And turned expression in Susanna's face
"Twas her mother's features in undoubted brace
"And then is when she saw the ladies in white
That passed round her bed and emitting a light
She lay bare of bed clothes the entire night
Lest moving a little might bring back the sight
"She feared the ghostly that came out of the grave
Her mother even from her dark earthly cave
Yet her thoughts were active and went to her aunt
On her memory brought by the ghostly chant
"This aunt and her mother already she knew
Had love for each other the deepest and true

To her Maker home in its beauty replete
Was most joyous journey this sister to meet
"Susanna for counsel was wise" she would say
"The secrets of friendship would never betray
To her in full trust have my suff. rings rehearsed
Her heart sympathised from the last to the first"

... ...

"These mem. ry when vanished then Christmas day {came
In its panorama of radiant flame
In her imaginings curious and strange
And through city queries her fancy did range
"Tis" 'twas but a week till the festival day
When houses and streets would appear in array
"Some money was given to Susanna the girl
To purchase such things as in wide window where
And counting her money had kept her from sleep {Rest
How much she would spend and how much she must

... ...

"The holly days passed still as rainbow shore
There dazzled in her mem. ry many a door {girls
Through which she was guided by sweet laughing
The dainties to witness which lent, ry impels
"She had Christmas presents full up to the rest
And could make exchanges with girls of the best
And they promenaded the streets in recruits
Cheering to Susanna were their friendly suits
"And yet while these raptures gay rolled in stream
Revolving their ideals like fairy dream
The imagery prompting the blood in its flow
To rapt'ner loftier pleasures to know

"Then Betty at breakfast gave out shrieking scream
But she was not questioned what she could mean
Like storm devastation in language then rose
She was not molested but talked as she chose

"But Betty she kept up the conflict of sound
From morning until the evening around
To see a lov'd kineman declared she would
And every persuasion she stoutly withstood

"Though Isaac he argued of time and the loss
Of the eighty work hands of whom he was boss
But the self denial must be his to make
For she had resolved her word should not break

"And so he arranged in a few days to go
With deep disappointment and sad spirit low

"Susanna in coach in readiness found
The girls her equals they gathered around
"Good bye" were uttering and their kindest wishes
Which touch'd on her heart in accents most precious

And Alzina Sudneem the girl nearest by
Show'd glistening tears and she wondered why
The vehicle starting—
Alzina said with look back eye
"I hope to see you sis before you die"

"

"The lov'd kineman's reaching Betty went in
The rattling of dishes and voices made din
The father and Susanna turned elsewhere
And crossed roads and meadows with kin to share

It was January and clearest warm weather
Which easier made the distance to travel measure

The trees standing barren in their winter slumber
The grape vines and bushes gray ish and somber
And chimneys appeared in cat en clay ply
Where curling (swarming) 'd the most children to look and to cry
Where peeped the baby's dress out through the pane
The little brown cow chew'd her cud in the lane

"And they saw pine boughs the river flow'd past
Observ'd roving skiffs on its face moving fast
The wane of the day on its ripples glanc'd red
Ere on their stream'd vision the resting place spread

"And they heard the lonesome sound of the farmer
His flocks calling up and their answering murmur
And the tiny strokes of the blacksmith's hammer
Near blue striped posts where there was a clammer

"The trees lengthened shadows stretched the field
Where one lonely plowman his furrows revealed
The last ray of sun had departed the road
When they two entered the kindred abode

"When supper was over the night's repose sought
Then Alzina glided on Susanna's thought
Alzina so fair so gentle devoted
She that for example is often quoted

"And I hope to see you six before you die"
And the glistening tear in her sky blue eye
But resumed "Why should Alzina say die"
She could not divine what the words did imply

"And then had some feeling it might never be
Alzina or the others ever she'd see
And drew to herself their attentive kind ear
Examines herself if she aught to them lacks

"Then thought of her school over the long Walnut Hills
And its miscellany sufficiently fills
Her memory with incidents precious and dear
The teacher and the school came all up so clear

"She liked her teacher Mrs. Williams so kind
Who her with side glance would assist if behind
She liked her equals she walked with from town
A race in recess could run them all down

"And her little cousin that lay by her side
Was asking Susanna concerning her ride
Till sleep overcame their talking continuous
And Mary is unconscious to further news'

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"I'm going to my brother David's today'
The father next morning said starting away
"Twas David who aided in the children's plea
And who brought him worthy his children to see

And furnished him horse in the wood all to explore
As hoping to find them away from their door
And oft Isaac saw them from the house run out
Hear their voices ringing saw them look about

At last down the streamlet a child form he (veiwed
Then courage triumphant his glad breast rene'd
His son Silas it was untaught being his kin
His active yet limb he is swiftest in in flight'

"The father said turning his horse to advance
And beckons Silas he comes saw the first glance
The unfearing feet of the boy when arriv'd
Then all the romance in the father revived

"He had him at school and to pass through well
Saw him at commencement and excel in knowledge

Knew him renowned and commanding the bar
And named for learning and wisdom afar
"And he saw him loyal in his countries need
And mighty in word and as warrior in deed
Then in this blessed moment his thoughts flew away
Unconsciously rapturid in earths brightest way

"His spirit returned he looked on his boy
His eyes and his heart overflowed with joy
And said "His ruddy of face his glance is bright
The blood runs pure in his veins his health is right
"His plump and well formed complexion is fair
The rose and the lilly are both blended there
Dark waves of auburn heavy fleece his large head
And still darker eyes do their radience shed"
"The prospects then sailed in the fathers brain
To Susanna narrated in their full train
When she with him lived in subsequent days
That dashing acquaintance kept vivid its rays
"When he threw the dollar for friendship begun
To Silas his own favorite child and son
And Wiley reminding of victim and flash
His boisterous attitude threatening crash
"And he wished home for his visit was done
Escaping in the forest Wiley to shun
But prayed on the hill that this friendship true
Between him and Silas they might yet renew
"He saw Silas holding the dollar to sight
And his mothers advance glance like a specters of light
"The snow flakes trimming her uncovered tresses
And pere your face like softest lace meshes

"Ascending the steps clung the girls to her dress
And seemed entreiving how they could caress
When his yearning prayer drew her look to his face
But not one lineament of him could she trace

"Silas should manly would be strong in feature
Was healthful and gallant in all his nature
He eyed the direction his father had fled
And the height'ning roses on his brave face spread

"There watched till the snow storm thickened the air
And lost the board roof where his heart treasures were
The look that he prayed would come to his face
Unvanished was still when his way did retrace

"As innocent in weakness kept by his horse
As when it first yielded his name to endorse
Soon after their children around her had wound
Save Silas he clasped his father's neck 'round

"There mused Susanna for company's sake
Awaiting her father's returning so late
The tree tops were hid in the twilight of gray
The cows' lowing tones melder sounds kept at bay

"The last beam of day the forest had spangled
Where grape vines swung and the mercury dangled
The hills and the valleys even were seen
When motion as shadow in air 'peared his mein

"From fence of the barn yard whence she was slaming
The split rail fence for eminence commanding
Where tidings had looked the woods far and wide
Before single glimpse of her father she spied

"Now nearing she noticed he had lagging gait
Denoted his countenance some change of pale
Descending to meet him and clinging his arm
Then dropped his tears on her hands fast and warm
"Red flames wrapped the prestick and leaped the
Of the high fire place and flit over all
Enlevening quick flashes short and then tall
Of blazing devices from long to round ball
"When he and Susanna th. Inside had re-entered
Side seat the most distant he having preferred
With close folded arms he sat a reflecting
How unwelcome tidings the best way rejecting
"For he showed plainly that something ahead
On his sensibilities was heavy dread
Exasperating and conflicting vision
In attitude seemed demanding decision
"As in unrelenting and conflicting stand
Awaiting assertion resented or bland
Dispatched emotions back and forth had went
Or ebbed and flowed or they come and went
"Like the pitpul breeze the changeful storm started
And flickered his face with [illegible] darts
"His eyes on Susanna like two clouds that meet
Were azure in hue as the summer clouds fleet
That hang their bright folds o'er the Miamies deep
In closely seen squadrons in their morning sweep
"Now Warren her treasures held out one by one
The rivers the woodlands the snow and the sun
Her hills, sides of flowers and medical herb
That first the wild Indian fingers disturb

"Yar widening meadow in while clover lead & spread
And onward and onward where field and lawn
And acres of orchard for promise to yield
The perspective prospect of vision revealed
"And fair tiled gardens of bloom and stock
Production in most celebrated repute
From mansions look'd on by the high born and the rich
But nature's not partial she careth not which
"On whom she bestow with her emblem of peace
Her law will will prevail come for all the same cause
The rose blows as sweet at the poor widows gate
As in the trained grounds of the immense estate
"The grandeur of forest and beauty of cloud
Alike are beheld by the low and the proud
The cold streams of water persistent in speed
Wrought here and there thatched with willow and weed
"The wonders of art and (now) the perfect of hand
Their splendour as signals still in demand
And then came her cousins sisters and brother
Her uncles and aunts and lastly her mother
"This last vision seemed (this revival) on her father's mind brought
Or by his imaginings in some way wrought
And various things talk'd between them before
Were now all reviewed and with many more
"She felt that her mother stood close at his side
Caressing (consolingly in look & many) with hand & his sorrows divide
Profuse perspiration dampened his face
He wiped his brow in the circle found place
"Came forth and took part in the social ring now
In the conversation the first all allow

"Next morning he said "Despair was in my soul
All yesterday but partly "twill off me roll
So I am impressed by some inward hope
Though faint it be as seen at through star telescope"
"His fingers rubbing o'er his brain through his hair
As memories to banish, them nestled there
And adding "Susanna I can tell you all
Another affliction must on us both fall
We soon shall be parted and perhaps for life
In your father's bosom this cause hard strife
"At Davids I found the family all gone
And then I sat down to rest myself alone
Persuaded meantime he would presently come
From looks of condition of things round the home
"With meandering wild eye first threaded the stream
The low lands a racing in bright silvery gleam
My boyhood diversions they then entertain'd
In the by gone amusements became enchain'd
"Along that stream glide mammoth the bison I had
When startled away by Indians that yell'd
Their axes and flints often times the boys found
And their antiquated relics hid in the ground
"And dark squaws have seen with the moss burr,
With their little papooses beside that stone
Had swam isle swollen waves catching the drift wood
Had viewed it for acres all under flood
"Had chased the fox to his hole in the rock
Had seen wild turkeys flying there by the flock
And then prowling wolves in those parts were seen
And many wild animals were seen when our

And skimmed these woods then a kindly wild cat
That could make a man from his head hurl his hat
More frequent were earthquakes in those days than now
The woods and the plain deep furrows did plow
"Were line in that stream and caught fish of fine size
With well filled stringe satisfied with the prize
Though dripping with rain often them to procure
For in misty weather the bale was most sure
"Raccoons were more numerous too in those days
Which made a clear sport in the season of sleigh
On moon shine nights tracked them near to that
For the compensation their skins might command
A tall man emerged now in my wand, ring
He had David's step and complexion of light
My heart rejoiced in the thought It is he
But when coming up it was William to see
I reverenced William for his higher knowledge
His way earning through gradations of college
'Twas from Union Village whence he had now roved
And where was accounted to him well beloved
"He there was a deacon or else a teacher
A man 'twas so said that with all could agree
Though glad was I then to see this good brother
Yet David I loved as I love none other'
(A captain for muster was David 'twas said
From window Susanna had seen them parade
Enjoyed the sight of this uncle to view
Though at quite a distance his cockade she knew)
"When William was seated Isaac's thoughts took wing
Events were related for long years not heard

And then of that river when its waters stood
In far widening sheet of one level flood
'Till full to'ring brim above high water mark
Of the cord wood afloat and rolls of shell bark
Of Indian canoes that rode on its face
And its roaring soundings in making new place
'Of the ponderous bears and the deer quick bound
Sly reynards detecting in their cunning round
The hounds in pursuit of their tracking so fleet
Giving lively spring to the juvenile feet
'Of Indians there for favorite resort
Their whooping and dancing and singing transport
How they in the war farmers' horses misplaced
And though oft pursued were seldom outchased
'Now their younger days mutually talked over
By question Isaac was making endeavor
To learn why William lonesome ramble had bent
So early to Davids and what his intent
'For in all he said seemed disguised tone
And shadows reluctant from his visage shown
And when he conversed looked off on the sky
As thoughts revolving giving inward supply'
'Our sister Susanna how is she' inquired
A reddening glow over William's face fired
'And why did you get there so soon after me'
'That' answered William I'd have you foresee
'Lest unpleasant tidings I bring to relate -
Or sorrow I might in your bosom create
But message I say from our sister I bear
And I'm undecided how it to declare

She tells me that strange premonitions of late
Do visit her dreams and about her await
That Susanna's image her little name sake
Comes night after night and it keeps her awake
That she and her mother oft come together
And that when leaving is not certain whether
The wayward child is deceased or alive
But left is impression that she does not thrive'
'Tell Isaac to send me my little namesake
And with further charge he would not to break
For little Susanna he promised fair
Whenever I asked should be placed in my care'
'I will be here for Susanna to-morrow'
He said 'And trouble you need not to borrow
Say not in the least but be fully resigned
The sisters at the Village all will will be kind'

... ...

'Together let's reason' the father now said
I know with my sister agreement I made
That when she should ask it I'd take you to her
This sacred signified promise I now must aver
'But my sufferings then were heaviest weight
The theme of my heart ever early and late
And she and your mother were always such friends
I dashed this out at avenging amends
'And I thought your mother this would not repine
As that was the home I had heard she would chose
To insure her children when her toils should end
And Jesus the angels to her spirit send
'Susanna was her dearest sister I knew
If there I could go and see you and her too

Without her hard brothers with trail on my track
And dread painted women and Breeds at my back'
('And while he was talking Susanna she thought
Of her mother's ultrances in the air caught
When her bed she visited with beings white
That traversed in space like meteors of light
And how strong her wishes for her children dear
To be with Susanna whom she did revere
And she felt a vigorous impulse at heart
That for Union Village she would like to start)
'But now Susanna you are much larger grown
And your father's wild veins they are nearer sown
So I'll not compel you against your own will
That pledge if you say so I'll never pulpit'
A promise she argued would be wrong to slight
Which he and her mother would both think was right
In the house with Betty she was in the way. seemed nothing gay
To aunt Susanna wanted to go next day
'Now through coloring streaks like quick lightnings sent
Or the upward sparks from ignevus evolv sent
Perceptable were in their electric glow
And like summer shower did his eyelids flow
'And said 'Do you care no more for your father'
'Yes but as it is fixed to go I'd rather'
Said she often centured for being stiff willed
Her purpose thus held though her heart too was filled
'You'll go to your aunt then and leave your father'
'Yes but we may not be parted forever
You can come on visits and see us all three
Aunt Susanna and uncle William and me

And some time it may be There will be your home
And we will be happy when we see you come
I love you far more than I loved my mother
And every one else in this whole world over.

... ...

Now with the first rays of the sun on the sward
Were seen Hilteana's footsteps entering the yard
By Isaac next morning with burden appeal'd
He felt that his promise by Jale had been sealed
Informed Susanna Apsley and alone
Her uncle had come she answered in moan
So crying and sobbing that she could not speak
The sorrow of parting had made her so weak
"Her father to her had been dearest of all
Since ere that she could to his reaching hand crawl
"For she could remember before home he left
And she of his presence so sadly bereft
Though his form and features to her were erased
When he questioned her from the stage in such haste
"She then in new place and with new filled thought
Confusion his ways on her memory brought
For never a stranger had she seen before
Who loved her so well and whom she did adore
"With him she was charmed ere hearing his name
Though Benjamin Franklin instinct does not claim
Instinctive as Kinsman pervaded his face
Attraction to confidence giving full place

... ...

"Division is not made for Susanna to hide
Now touched on the father's anger and pride

"Susanna can't go now" to William he said
"This projected journey must be over laid
If waggon nor carriage can bear her away
We'll postpone the matter to another day
Susanna's not able to walk that distance
And go she cannot without some assistance"

"But parly'd William and promis'd to carry
Susanna often as tired or weary
For that disappointed their sister would be
At his returning and Susanna not see
At last his argument did overpower
And she started off with her uncle that hour
When farewell around to each one had been said
The father of William good care entreated

"Now William's eye deepened turning his neck
At Isaac's loud call and at seeing him beck
And said with step longer and with wider sweep
"Already he's sorry he didn't you keep
"Isaac was always my tenderest brother
The time I lament since he left your mother
The brightest was he in our fam'ly corner
And he was the swiftest as any performer"

"One acre frosted meadow they had not yet cross'd
Nor house they departed on their back view lost
When heard was the masculine voice on the breeze
Echoing the fence and against the bare trees

"Come back Susanna O Susanna come back"
"She look'd and with following eyes on their track
Was that of her father he standing up high
From which emination he raised his cry
"While from this position he still calling stood
Their steps William quick, ned to the neighb'ring wood
When over the fence she tried to look through
He caught her up and said "This never will do"
"And under his arm he carried her fast
The trees seemed running as them they thus past
Through mud hole and pools made treacherous by leaves
And mistaken safely the foot oft deceives
"At length to her uncle concluded to say
"Am I not too big to be carried this way"
He instantly dropp'd her and she went behind
Repented through after in body and mind
"Now shoes her feet cramped and soon she was tir'd
And frequently told of how deeply she mir'd
"Or when down he let her the mud holes he said
Must tell him when meeting and not try to wade
"And merely he lifted her over the bogs
The fences gutters streams and highest of logs
With him keeping up very hard at length grew
And gladly she welcom'd each pool in view
"The highest of fences their prop'ping stakes rear'd
Like ladies lace scallops when far off appear'd
"In haze of the onward landscape that loom'd
And thorny projections fine tissues assum'd
"The nuts on the trees' pear'd as faces of men
The squirrels their "tenants" were frisking them then

And dead looking trees to enliven in Spring
Hung shaggy bark grape vines cut as for a swing
Now shuddered with fear at the cracking of bough
For storm gathering gales chas'd o'er the hills brow
The leaves swept furiously into ridges
And upon the marches winnow'd in bridges
More uncertain in making the travelers aim
The marshes and dry land appearing the same
She asked her uncle to point out a mile
As hoping for shortening distance the while
Boot prints true as swathe from the Scythe mower's hand
Was her uncle William which the wood land spann'd
His height known to be six feet and four inches
Her steps behind his seem'd only as pinches
In one of his steps counted three of her own
Complained and lagged behind to make known
That she would be carried if she had the chance
But fruitless were all of the hints she'd advance
Now she turned sick or fatigued and cried
Her uncle looked back and coughed and then sighed
Are you still grieving for your father poor child
He said in a voice sympathetic and mild
We'll get to the Village before it is night
And your little cousins* will meet you all bright
Their names are Milton and Jackson and Mary
They have nimble limbs and cheeks of the cherry

Now bellreys and weather vanes dimly allured
And orchards and gardens and houses assured

* his children

That was Union Village the eye climbed to
And nearer and more plainly coming to view
The bluish white pike and the pavement of wood
Extending off farther to see than she could
And rises in air the boys fluttering kites
Cheered by their voices in vociferous heights
Now William the uncle took her by the hand
And said. We are entering our Shaker land
A young order family is this we first meet
And she thought so beautiful and so complete
The slate colored barns yards and houses of white
In summer or pleasant exquisite the eye must delight
Bright mantled in sunshine golden and warm
All spread out so tastefully was the large farm
A hedge closely thick pen'd the garden around
That in its path midway a grape vine was found
In the eyes researching up latticed and long
Where grape vines traveled and the bird light sprang
And benches beneath as in omnibus seat
In summer no doubt supposed for a shady retreat
And fair faced ladies in cleanest attire
Passed round and about and then would retire
A herdsman was met driving in through the lane
In over all garment that hung loose and plain
The march of his cows sounded plaintive in tramp
In unison with the air growing damp
And ladies with buckets slipped in the barn door
As fair and as lovely as those seen before
The cows going in were fastened each head
When finding their places in the stalls were fed

"The straw they are pitching new beds are to make
A good deal of straw in the winter meet take"
Susanna now added while her uncle's hand
Was showing direction to higher swell'd land
"Where round a flat barn were scattered broad sheep
Some walking some standing some lay as asleep
And two men from wagons unloading the straw
And she thought their wheels must cut deep in the straw
A dog sits upright on the steps of a stile
And closely he watches them passing the while

"The darkness was coming 'twas cloudy and drear
More chilly the weather and cold and severe
Reflection discerning now like candle bright
As set in the window for them giving light
"She points out the object inquiring of him
(Was in meditation seem'd fill'd to the brim)
If that was her good aunt Susanna's abode
And silently crying along the dull road
"Some steps now ascending answer'd her question
Advis'd some things she'd better not mention
Until getting rest and becoming acquainted
The dark drawings then might be leisurely painted
"He is muddy boots rubbing on the stiff door mat
And hands her cheeks brushing the fur on his hat
"He then cross'd the hall on his sister's door knock'd
It open'd and little Susanna was shock'd
For when her apartment they entered both
She shiver'd disappointment said something of

"I'm lonely" she thought "and aunt look'd for beauty"
And there was an impulse rose in her haughty
Resistance with standing the least humbling pride
In my own construction I did not not decide
I wonder how aunty would have me to look"
And thought of some pictures she'd seen in a book
A Quaker, rose had lain'd her on Christmas to see
"Like some of those beauties she'd like me to me"
"When bonnet removed and wrappers not thick
Her aunt was ashamed Susanna saw quick
And came recollection she was pretty thought
When walking and talking was first to her taught
"But her aunt Susanna had seen her since then
Susanna had thought of that visit often
Thus reasoned she in her now smitten mood
As she was suspicious her aunt had her view'd
"She's worn out and sick" said the aunt now concern'd
While her colored cheeks the rosier turn'd
And then of her brother enquiries she made
If he let her walk and the swampy woods wade
"For not taking wagon chided severely
And adds. "Coming to me has cost her dearly"
And the noble heart here to fore always true
Was kindly ministering all it could do
"This dear aunt Susanna and the sisters swift
They bathed her feet and her fev'rish head smoothed
They brought her hot supper that she could not eat
But she thought their kindness so good and so sweet
"Then sage tea they made and urged her to drink
And in feather bed they dropped her to sink

With thoughts of her father she sobbed to sleep
For his voice it seemed did still calling keep

Next morning she could not get on either shoe
And sighed for her father who this us'd to do
But my aunt Susanna was mother instead
And both soul and body with sympathy fed

She said to her aunty "You have father's face
And I in your heart as in his have a place
(The while she was lacing and tying her shoe
Now cleaned and polish'd to look nice as new)

"Will his home be here ever do you believe"
With pause came her answer and with heavy heave

"A shawl tied her bandbox with changes of clothes
She takes them all out her aunt she them shows
What all she has in it and gets a clean suit
Her aunt look'd them over carefully and meet

... ...

"The sisters attentions Susanna's time wield
And she thought their ways all so pretty and mild
Wherever they went allow'd her to go too
In their gen'ral friendship her happiness grew

"The broad bins of apples she thought a great treat
Where she was permitted to go and to eat
And fancied at times all the heavens could hold
Of the choicest treasures this home had enroll'd

"In every direction so much to enjoy
And nothing she knew of was found to annoy
The large storage free seem'd as gifts from above
Their genius having multiplication in love

"A founder of this good home Issachar Baker
Once questioned Susanna as she relates

"Do you love the sisters" "Yea" she quick replied
"Walk right" he returned as he searchingly eyed
Her "You love the sisters" with a sharp came crack
"And neer to the world you will want to go back
"Do you see the stars" he asked "Yea at night"
"If you will be good like them you will be bright"
"Here he was tarrying his labors were o'er
To his home return on the old eastern shore
To plant Mother's gospel in this western land
He cherished ambition to have a command
"And ne'er let he counted or service with blood
Wherever he saw any chance to do good
He traveled through rain and snow and wintry sleet
Till cold and exposure took bones from his feet
"First into this office Susanna was brought
Where her aunt Susanna managed what was bought
"Here all things provided or ready for sale
Were brought for the Trustees to sell or retail
And buy for the farm, lies according to need
With deacons and deaconesses fully agreed
"And here came the strangers to be entertained
On business or whatever here they remained
Or visiting friends or investigation
All that pertained to the outside relation

"In two weeks Susanna to the East House went
Where all of the children that came in were sent
At play met her cousins all blooming and fair
The youngest was Jackson with flax colored hair
"Their mother was deaconess in that domicile
The wants of the farm, ly knew how to fulfil

Her kindred bore fame in a name much renown'd
From many lips accented in high tides sound
A mother was she in the noblest degree
Her womanly heart eir impartial and free
Solicitous glanced the young and the old
From her dear affection none left in the cold
"The children prolific in want and question
Her presence thronged with eager invention
Her favor to win or her eye to enlist
With ardent attraction would restless persist

" " past

"The dew rose in night and the winter march'd,
With all his equipments of cold chilling blast
The engines of Spring came in with their showers
The orchard mantling and gardens with flowers
"The succulent verdure of issuing green
Like silver gemm'd carpet lay rich in the sheen
And sun shine and shower fledg'd leaves on the tree
That turned up edges in force of the breeze
"The Summer's broad program filled to the full
Of pulage and berries inviting to cull
And more in profusion than fingers to pick
But the watch of abundance kept still on the tick
"The garden heav'd heavy its long furrows through
And ready in ripeness' continually grew
The strawberry currant and raspberry black
Came each in succession that there be no lack
"And apples pears cherries and apricot* fruit
The plumbe and the peach and quince in pursuit
The greenish pot grape vines in their curling twine
The useful and beautiful serv'd to combine

* One tree

(Susanna's sense filling of the hundred fold
Of which the elders in her first meeting told
And that no good thing would Jehovah withhold
From the upright as promised by prophet of old)

And loads of fresh hay came as turtle in shell
Or so drew the horses the fondness swell
To the barns wherein by a strong winding rope
Unmeasured spans light to loftier grope
Till load upon load to the oak rafters crept
Or heights where the pigeons their hoarse counsels kept

In winter the children all had their day school
The girls had a sister with old country rule
And she was a mother and had children there
But just and impartial in her allotted care

Dame Smith the first elder the boys teacher was
And good for a teacher in any right cause

" " " fair
When Spring o'er the landscape had spread herself
Work for the children did the elders prepare
When leaves were the size of a gray squirrel's ear
In the mulberry orchard that grew in the rear

Of wood back the pear tree with stateliest crest
The white mulberry the worms liked the best
Then silk worms were hatched on cotton cloths " where
The eggs had been lay'd and preserved with care

The girls now in wagon and baskets filled in
Were drawn to the orchard their work to begin
Along grassy field and early red clover
Over picking the mulberry leaves to cover

And the hungry silk worms so greedy to spread
That often required to be changed and fed

And briskly performed was their morning tore
The children might play then or in the shade coil
" Till drove home the wagon and come back again
And then for a race each commenced on a strain
Till filled were the baskets and tied up high
And follow'd the children for dinner on high

" The larger girls spent in the long summer days
And were recommended to the woods for plays
The glory of nature's off spring there flooded
Wild roses bloom'd and the violets budded

" The blackberry stools hazel bushes entwin'd
And ranged their berries delecevus to find
Or more distant promise on green knuckle burs
Of hazel that offering later prepare

" From dogwood in blossom to its cremson seed
On ceaseless changing the fancy could feed
The goose berry bushes to their prickly yield
The grape vine tendril till the cluster revealed

" The wild cherry tree that the fence stood between
Gave its purple berries ere the frost was seen
The blackberry tree that lofter ever grew
And sheds sweet berries when the ground lays in snow bind

" In hill sides were roots which the children might
That were for the coloring art most melin'd
There grew red and yellow puccoon or blood root
With which bits of muslin they dyed to suit

" And wrapped their doll babies in flowerkd dress
So beautiful then them would sweetly caress
For these little dyers were taught but home made
In copperas and blue not easy to fade

"Their dresses in summer were from the home loom
That made early music in the weaver's room
In winter wore thread that they spun by the stein
On the race till mid day or spun in the wane

"And made into flannel in indigo ground
Streak'd red in the warp or in plaid going round
Else brown from the cov'ring of butternut bark
The fullers press'd smoothly and even and dark

"And there that the pallet would work to supply
Ground grass nuts wild onions and acorns in July
And sassafras and the sweet cane roots to chew
Would dig in the sunshine or in the wet dew
Would dig for bulbs of the Indian turnip
As moles in the ground for bulbs of the tulip

"Were they for geology were most in clin'd
Along narrow hollow their footsteps would wind
The curious in shell and in sand find prize
Horn petrified and flints from which fire flies

"And uprooted trees climb banks to look under
Hoping for treasure in Indian plunder
Their mark, lowness else saw there century old
What size and the signs of the tree plainly told

"The devious ramblers the black haw trees found
And bending their form spreading tops to the ground
Then called their equals to come and partake
And nimble quick fingers the clusters did break

"The nicest red haws they could ferret out
In their entertaining researches of scout
The best pawpaw thickets they knew all about
And in these excursions they ne'er lost their route

. "And those to acquisitiveness the most inclined
"Round hickory nut trees their footsteps would wind
And a pinny and basket fill full to the brim
Then carry them home themselves these girls were slim
"And acorns and hazle nuts swelled their store
Till room for deposit there was found no more
The boys wagon loads of black walnuts would haul
The girls hull'd of them for themselves in the fall
"And those most pleasure in flowers could find
Their loose checked aprons sweet williams confin'd
The May apple white and the violet blue
On the top of the hills there side by side grew
"And there was a pinkish white lilly shap'd flow'r
That clepp'd was so tender 'twould not live an hour
And numerous blooms that their name could not learn
That grew over the forest where 'er grew the fern
"And those having instinct for castles in air
Had inclination to be clamb'ring somewhere
The hills highest peak to look over the brink
And drop little stones in the water to sink
"Ascending convenient luxuriant tree
The objects in further off region to see
Look yonder oak top the sun's walking first
Or that on the hedges and garden clear burst
"Susanna had love for the high blowing breeze
And knew how to climb to the top of the trees"
When there with her equale would send glances home
So near to the clouds and their transparent dome
"There nestled in bough where the fresh fragrance shed
The green leafy roof in the air overhead

And meantime singeing from hearts that rejoice
The following song at the top of their voice

"The name of Shaker is for me
A worthy Shaker I will be
Shaker is a pretty name
The name of Shaker I will claim
I am a Shaker yea 'tis true
Though Shakers are so very few
I'm not ashamed of Shaker name
For Shakers ever evil reign"

"The bright varnish'd leaves in their quivering quake
Reflecting the sunshine that tinsel'd with their shake
The resting wings hear of the swarm passing bridle
The play of the lambs see the kind shepherd herald
"The Beckwells' broad backs ere the fleece is taken
The wreath in mother the lambs awaken
"To look over the farm at the brethren to work
The plough through the corn tear the weeds that there lurk
The orchards presenting their even line rows
The fences around that the white elder grows
"The hop and the dewberry climbing the rails
And the mercury vines that after them trails
The hackberry trees greeting with heavy shade
That on the cold snow often sweet berries laid
"The cypress nut tree at the meadow gate post
Whose nuts the boys pick'd and then lick'd to roast
The sweet honey locust to be touch'd by frost
The girls lick'd to nibble through with the cost
"And near were pecan* trees with red slick rough bark
Whence came twittering birds that svar'd as the lark

* grown from two kinds that elder Isaachar Bates brought from West Union Indiana and planted there

The butter nut grove having nuts long and green
From their lofty eminence now could be seen
"The clear reaped fields yet in stubble rain cell
That from the pure heavens the night before fell
Now flush'd with the sun that glow'd in each stem
Appearing like miriads of sparkling gem
"The endless profusion of wealth laden store
Enamor'd their senses each day more and more
And had kept them out till the arl gave his hoot
And the neighbors from had reminded salute
"The woods were across but one orchard and field
At the nearest point where the full seasons wield
Their harvests of colors of variegate tint
From dappled early to the frozen mint
"This forest encompass'd the farm all around
And gave spacious room for the girls' playing ground
When rack'd at their wheels could gain holf a day
To spend in the woods for diversion and play
"The creek through the woods with its bottomy stone
But ruffled in places at by earthquake thrown
Tall oaks stooping over to look in its face
As it stepp'd the ledges retarding its pace
"The mussell shells bleach'd here and there { along found
The locust and frog in its sight start their song
The plash and the sound of the sicamore ball
Round eddy its ripples in the plunging fall

" "

A tap on the shoulder gave sudden surprise
And Susanna's child vision vanished her eyes
The form of her mother developed to sight
Reflective her aspect arrayed in white

And having her book turned full half its pages
The part which portrayed the Shaker life stages
On Susanna's thought came her father's homestead
And the information which there had her led
In cold winter month of the year '75
When scarcely 'twas said was her father alive

The features grew sadder in her mother's face
As though a deep sorrow her heart did embrace
And then on the mind of Susanna prostrate
Her father appeared in his feeble state

As when she entered his room in twilight
The darkness of evening bringing the night
A hushed brooding silence pervaded the room
By whispers she learned to die was his doom

In bed he was lying as though fast asleep
On his back as a corpse his breathing was deep
Close followed her in the doctor from Carbon
He pulsed her father Kim kindly looked on

'Twas asked this doctor concerning the sick
His life ere the morning will burn down its wick
In substance reverent and tender replied
And questions of int. rest to mine were denied

Yet he measured persons to take through the night
At every hour hours dissolved and while

She stood by his bed till the doctor was gone
She stood by his bed till they two were alone

Susanna

That life might return her soul then beseech'd
To his lived face bended here till it reach'd
"He'll never speak again" she remember'd they'd said
And stood where his burying clothes ready laid
Near by in the room where the watchers would lie
But such preparations made her spirit sigh
"Contended she was not on their decision
Her father to life would have on her vision
She pressed his temple and it was not cold
But the power of action seemed controll'd
"His eyelids were parted but the balls movid not
But seem'd like sleep emblems in long quiet grot
Or the thick glass marbles that roll on the floor
Dirt from the skies taken or some coral store
"But Susanna stood near he knew it was her
Though the orbs of his eyelids he could not stir
Knew her voice it was the parental name spoke
And memories absent now slowly awoke
"She noticed dim lines of emotional trace
Light faintly the lineaments of his face
And efforts reviving of trying to speak
Slowid the endeavor in perceptable streak
"She look'd on the channels of age in his cheek
Then placed her ear to his lips but to weak
Was he to lisp word or to raise even moan
Yet she thought returning were signs of life shown
"At length came the sentence nearer breathed
"They say I am almost gone" then blanching stroke
Crossid over his features and passed away
And as to sleep drooping he now colder lay

"Susanna had heard that speech shuttered clear
Had sometimes arrived the death slumbering ear
And with hand on his pulse and trembling with fear
She sounded aloud in her father's pale ear'

"Now I have come father and you will not die"
"This she repeated in his ear loud and nigh
Her prophecy entered his conscience in
As she discovered in his quivering skin

"You think I may live them because you have come
Now that you have come stay at your father's home
Till he quite this day recovers again
And sealed may his fate be while you remain"

"These words slow and weak came and broken
By sleep and by moanings that did intervene
And moving lips and starts at darlings of mind
And hunting of hand as for something to find

(She had some permission one month here to stay
Should she deem it needful to make such delay
In case of low sickness for she was impressed
By her dreams and her feelings causing unrest

"That sick was her father or else he was dead
And with a friend's tidings for this journey fled)

"Pressed by his appeals she concluded to stay
Not having the courage to him disobey

"(And to his entreaties she promise made
When he grew some stronger and did her persuade
That she would not leave him until he could walk
And they two together would have a long talk)

"His bedside she tended and his wants obeyed
From him fell the echo that her kindness made

And 'twas seven weeks ere he walkèd to the street
Or without his cane could all keep his feet

——— ''' ——— '''

And now said the father to Susanna when
The air had been vocal with prayer and amen
Is not your month's time elapsed here to-day.
If so then I want you to write home and say
That your father wishes you longer to stay
To stay till his fate determines either way
"The elders I know this permission will give
They are the best people that in this world live
In my mother's last sickness they gave their grain
The distance three miles to Susanna your aunt

Now still on her heart their prayers for her father
Her gratitude claimed and she could no other
Than show obligation for what was intended
Prayer for herself and her father ascended
"Our brethren this morning their prayers here
"Was time of revival hence easy offered
They were earnest souls who from house to house went
The wind blowing fierce and the snow having vent

And entered brethren of Mechanicsburg Church
Full twelve scraped the snow from their boots neath
"These "United Brethren" all sealed heaven here
Their to pierce the scriptures and salvation clear
Dark creeds to their awakened sight coming clear
The pure Gospel promises giving full cheer

"When Susanna's father requests her to write
These twelve praying brethren sat full in her sight
Each gave his opinion that she should now stay
And no good people would decide other way
"Our "United Brethren" Church of which her father was a man

"She felt much embarrassed to know what to do
For next was the day that she had in her view
To be at her home in the Ohio State
And last morning union did not like to wait
"She wrote letter home to her good elders Kind
And telling the story that did her there bind
And deeming that 'silence' as said 'gives consent'
She stay'd as they did not by answer prevent

... ...

"When winter departed the Spring beamed her ray
Then Susanna's father with came for his stay
Proposed to her to look over his land
The direction pointing from their present stand
"And slowly they wended their way through the yard
Along street and garden and the barn till barr'd
Was their further passage by bars for a gate and wait
Which the cows and the calves would bawl through
"Inside were the pastures for horses and cows
The barn held implements of farm and hay mows
"Here tiger the shepherd dog came to their side
And next to the Jennet the favorite pride
He well knew the name of each beast of the farm
At call of a name when the care made alarm
"Would fly to the rail road clear it from the track
With sensible look in a moment be back
"Now threaded the pasture and lowering slope
Were fast trinklings springs with the Altar elope
And crossing this stream call'd the 'Little Altar'
Composed mostly of clear springs of water

A goose gave a squall vigorously flopp'd his wings
And into the water by a colt's tail swings
The father slopp'd quickly and threw at him a stone
Repealing with the throw "Let that colt alone"
Then saying "A horse is no match for a goose"
The colt bitted out to avoid the abuse
The goose swam about with satisfied look
On the riled water the colt had forsook
"A horse wont drink water that's dirty observ'd"
Again threw a stone but the goose from it swerv'd
Then told of a neighbor who bought a fine mare
But in richest pasture became weak and spare
"He doctor'd and watched the cause to assign
But on no conclusion could judgment confine
At last took his seat and watched day and night
To ascertain certain whence came the sad blight
"And to his surprise found the wrong in his geese
They riled the streamlet to save its decrease
For what the mare drank from themselves were taking
They lik'd a good stream for swimming and slaking
"And when having climb'd to the opposite bank
She turn'd and reviewed the depth that it sank
Twas unbroken sod that had ne'er felt the plow
In gradual assent from the base to the brow
"The land laying level and high at the top
Yet only the grass had e'er borne for its crop
So her father told her with much that pertain'd
To his farm and homestead before it he gain'd
"She now down the stream saw a barrel on its side
And cackledly clucking a hen with sleek hide

Her little brood eying of hatched out ducks
In oval spring basin them slowly around sucks
"Susanna goes down hill and lifts them all out
To please the old hen that was clucking about
Twelve little white beauties one day from the shell
In a pretty huddle with bills dipping well
"But straight way their webbed red feet paddled back
With faint little noises not come to a quack
Beath roots of a walnut tree giving its shade
Were anxious and troubled the hen made parade
"While walnuts were frequent along the streamlet
And even so early their shade gladdly met
"Now sat on the bank underneath one of these
Enjoying the scene and the visits of breeze
The father had leaned back on the trunk
His features still pallid and his eyes yet sunk
"Had languished in sleep and seemed in dream
As tranquil his count'nance as the near clear stream
And at farthest side of the pasture and creek
Grazed Jennet call'd "Jenny" plump easy and sleek
"With all the acquaintence was a great pet
She trotted up gaily now side the streamlet
An emblem of pride and high spirit in man
The preference to have wherever he can
"Yet she like'd the lofty and impident air
Of Jennie conscienceless of first ev'ry where
And then thought of some so charming and so bright
Distinction seem'd given to them as their right
"Now Jenny bigheaded and shining and black
Had drawn quite near and with head straightened back

And wondering eye on the father was fixd
Attention dividing to them through betwixt
"The father arose now and stood on his feet
And Jenny with seeming expression did greet
Then lay'd her humored head to his face
And he did in return did her pat and embrace
"And told of her mother that brought a great price
Eighteen hundred in the purchaser's device
That she was the noblest of animal Kind
For grace and for beauty and swiftness combin'd
"Bread and born on his grounds at Jeffersonville
Her mother he sold but the colt retain'd still
But when she had come to fullness of stature
She was so active he could not command her
"Her head would throw up clearing him from the ground
Arranging her bridle and saddle around
Unable to train her he sold her at last
She in courtly carriage and in grace surpass'd
"In time of the fairs in their exhibition
The most perfect priz'd in limb and condition
This jenny she carried and prais'd her here
At call of her name jenny turned up her ear
"He told of her lineage or pedegree
In which Susanna cared little to see
"Now came to a fence that his woods land inclos'd
A newish rail fence 'neath the dew yet repos'd
And crossing it over in thrifty forest
The largest oak she had ever seen was nearest
"Grass sod its roots clothed and there they sat down
In sight of his homestead and adjoining town

"And when they had reached north followd the fence
The rake to Susanna for size were immence
The speice brush and sassafras there grew propose
The sassafras sprouts of the breake off and chews
"The early mush rooms by the peck in a place
Her eyes pleased met as she thought be back chase
It would make for some she could think of at home
Who lik'd in the forest for mush rooms to roam
"The trees stood as thick as the corn in the field
And at a short distance the sun all conceal'd
Their mush rooms were large and as white as the snow
The sun through the trees not a ray on them blow
"But this forest damp and so dark and so cool
Some high solemn majesty seemed to rule
The wild growth so perfect without worm decay
Reminding of Eden where the axe found way
"Tis autumn shine and storms unnatural let in
And then comes the worms their harvests to begin
Not one single tree had been cut from its planks
Nor hurricane sign that had rived through its ranks
"Not one decay'd tree from the top to the base
In her wand. ring vision her eye sight could trace
"Except by the fence no grass could be seen
But patches of briers appear'd sharp and keen
The limbs of the trees were wel bed over head
Till seem'd like in shower umbrella full spread
"The fence corner reaching now on the north east
The delicate foliage had not decreas'd
The clover and the wheat field joining this wood
That as wall of safety and protection stood
"The rails stepping upward and over and down
With thoughts of a story just told of renown

Continuing course still north in direction
The birds and the waters sweet combination
Of sound melodious in their inclination
Predicative reminds of their intonations
Of kindred relations in the unseen land
The heavenly creations by the same hand
"The father now said as he motioned ahead
"That is the Big Altar narrator how it fed
And the northern boundary line of my land
You'll see it runs straight makes a beautiful strand
"When come to the bank and surveying the waves
That gainst the black strata mechanically lave
And up stream at distance over coal blocks leap
The waves breaking forth but regaining them keep
In their wonted movements between the banks sleep
But when coming nigher roll in even sweep
At forty feet depth began the coal to appear
She learned from her father viewing it near
These coal deposits by the force broken through
Of tidal persistance shielding so true
"Susanna we'll stop here and rest the faint said
Now under luxuriant Maple tree shade
Adjoining this bank was the sugar camp large
That galore of surrip ite orchard discharge
In many tapped tree still remained the spiles
Short wooden troughs over and in divers styles
Of vessel dimention empressing the scene
With always an obstacle standing between

"Their sirrup had added ill sweet to each meal
The children* for sassafras tea in their zeal
Brought in sugar water to boil down for tea
Suzanna enjoyed their busied glee
"Returned their thoughts through her father she
His new observations of sugar camp stirred
Ideal fancies of wild orchards planted
And not by man's hand must surely be granted
"Suzanna Their reading" he now said "will do
Come see the reward which I promised to you
If you would remain and attend by my bed
Until I recovered or was laid with the dead
"You know not the good your obedience shed
To feel that your father your spirit yet led
And that your affections were still as the child
That left her father in wilderness wilde"
Amidst the trees winding in following train
Two coal cars she noticed in unmoving train
On descending slope running into the hill
But stood in the cavity ready and still
At one time before she had been in this wood
His papa had drilled there she them understood
From bright little Willie romantic and fair
The history knowing of every thing there
The fragrance of flower from herb and from tree
The air heavy loaded as sweets for the bee
And nearing the two little cars in the bank
There saw in long lengths lumps of coal water tank

* belonging to a family that lived in the same dooryard

And espoused she learnid in what place had been
The block coal bowels of his land to invade
Related what Willie had told her of his
To ascertain certain if he thought same
The hole Willie showid her his papa had drillid
Was in the wheat field and appearid nearly full
She thought of a cavernous depth like a well
When Willie of drilling began first to tell
I was eighty feet deep he assured it went
Then running ahead he was over it bent quick
When with cautious steps she approaching the
Like horse shoe for print saw leaf covered sink
Engagid seemid her father in steady of mind
Though objects he frequently out to her signid
Her interrogation at length attended
Aware though she was not full comprehended
I went went to answer that slope to prepare
He merely replied and looking back there
And finally wading the wheat where it grew
As shining in wave as a lake on the view
He suddenly stopped and through tube curved
Citing Here is the highest point of my land
He said through his telescope looking east
And then on the spring house side and dell
And here is inhaled the windi purest breeze
Could see to Brazil were it not for the trees
Were it not for forest from here where we stand
A seven miles view would this summit expand
And now Susanna right here is the center
Of where I desire that your claim should enter

My Will you have read I consider the rest
But this elevation I have thought the best
"Ten feet it is higher here than at Carbon
Lying precisely one mile due west an on
An even straight range of exact ninety feet
By the sinking of shafts there good coal they
And eight mining slopes north of Carbon
With friends she had follow'd the steep hills be
Where the Little Otter rolled in western glide
And coal mining slopes open'd in at the each
"Remember Susanna for you here my choice"
He said in emphatic and decided voice
Should I before you pass to that better land
And join as I hope a happy pious band
"You were the first child in your father's comm
The first that reach'd arm the first in his hand"
"But she cast her eyes on his home meeting town
Embankment adjoining and the Spring house down
The back yard gradually lowering descent
And her av'rice then to the Spring blessing went
"But she cast her eyes on his home meeting town
Embankment adjoining and the Spring house
The back yard gradually lowering descent
And her av'rice then to the spring blessing went
. A room for the Spring House and shelves by the
For dairy convenience from cellar to floor
For a room for the milk that the stream glides
In poplar inclosure and silent in sound
An unfreezing untiring unceasing flow
As cool as rain clear as air and cool as snow

A thrifty beech tree in the hill giving shade
Near slant of the roof where the shingles are laid
"There taking firm root and there standing upright
A tree fairly grown showing no signe of blight
And south and west sheltering from heat of the sun
Where brought is the milk and the dairy work done.
"That grassy embankment his whole farm across
That in dashing rains from the jetting springs tore
Their fresh limeless water in vulbursting strength
The bank interspersing its unbroken length
"In which springs unfailing by digging them out
Might there be obtained through its entire route
Or told an old neighbor Susanna 'twas so
That the Altar's south bank was full of springs low
"And that these clear springs under cloudless control
To issue in silence or to leap and roll
From six mammoth springs came in more southern bound
Which traced in the earth to "My Little Altar's" mound
"The green level yard" for the Church Sunday throng
With the springs facilities beside on her strong
For some calculation for being the best
For her father's choice through her heart made request
"Her thoughts ran their quickly while hearing her
And the cheerful songs of the sweet singing birds
"He now said her birth day in june she might go
Where's seen the blue mist from the Miami's flow
In her quiet home the retreat of the wise
Worth, Kingdom of heaven and its richer prize
"He now spoke of rest turning west to the wood
The birds cheer'd and twitter'd a distant dove cood

"Susanna busy in contemplative mood
With incidents known of interest renewd
Wrought ponders them lengthy in her musing mind
Yet these in few lines trace the substance to bind
(Colonel B— of Brazil have seen at the gate
Announcing depredations occurd of late
Some unmarked trees got the axes hard lick
By undue advantage when father was sick
"So bold was the Colonel by men of the town
Where neighboring fence posts were being put down
But hearing the reasons did'nt further debate
And viewing the father in his weakend state
"His mind like his body was noble and great
And left no dark warning to anticipate
He only replied to blame is attachd
To you But in the future rogues must be catchd
"Those having stole timber their fences to stake
Thought father would die and from him they might
Or to this presumption one is most inclind
Or for an excuse is the subtest to find
"The coal and the timber were his his lifetime
Agreement with sale of the land a fore time
As this was first learned from Willie envole
Concerning the coal and the wood here about shade
"In our pleasant rambling to Carbon Through
He leading to see the improvements last made)
"She knew her father had owned haly section here
And would like to learn the particulars where
He had shown her fields on the road to Brazil
That he had once purchasd they were without hill
* The new steam grist mill builded during his sickness being the sole object

"Her interrogations drew her father's strength
While passed sun and shadow length after length
The woods were ringing with the axe and the saw
Immense blocks of oak and logs three horses draw
"These blocks" he observed "are for rail road ties"
"The Yosemite Cedar may boast" she replies
"But these largest oak trees might be rival prize
If they were transported their praises might rise"

A poplar sawstretched still fresh in green leaves
A nice place for resting her fancy conceives
It was a tall tree caved in from the hill
With head on the opposite bank crushed and still

And when they had come to the chosen retreat
There was perpendicular bank forty feet
Of this the Big Altar and Water beneath
Adown the depth gazing a thought fleet of death

"She turning to speak to her father near by
He staggered with dizziness came reeled sitply
And letting his hand his head to uncover
Fell in sleep for plunge bending over

"She darted before him thrust him to the ground
An awful foreboding came with the hard sound
She paused with her apron his eyes he had closed
She feared the silence in which he reposed

Again a sensation of death flitted near
And soon multiplied till countless they were
"Evanescent at Carbon bleached off steam
That forced out and upwardream upon ream
Of warm clouds that hazed the scenery around
And their whistles pierced and startled in sound

"Ere Calcutta's kettle kurd rumbling coal flats
And their locomotive for fast speed combats
Comes winding a switch while she counts forty five
And curves the new steam mill where all is alive
"The flats had unloaded hence empty and light
And stood fair extended to her peering sight
For at each alarm to the ground bowed her head
So agitated and so filled with dread
"Then saw slower train facing up the hill a top
So loaded with coal that fuel did drop
Pursuing the road that the empty train left
With its numbered tons from underground cleft
"Trains fronted like horses the new grinding mill
And grain elevators were raised to high sill
The workmen she saw darting like fire flies
Within twisted windows managing supplies
"And feared that someone might see her as well
See her at alone where her father had fell
"The ash colored miners though much more she feared
In countenance solemn and silent and weird
She once had been caught in their midst with a shield
She whispered to it to try and show mild' mixed
"With them and their din Keys on the rail road were
When they were unthinking two coal shafts between
The miners' work done from the shafts crowded out
Of the miners time they thought nothing about
"The dear little Kalee clung fast with both hands
Susanna had thought them of "Kalee ebbing sands'
The most frightful legend she ever had read
Seemed might be repealed then over her head

"But unspoken tramped and trudged their way
Not one to another did any thing say
In stature were short Nysing nanny said
At one peal of laughter to tell of heart glad
"Susanna and Katie were not molested
Though never before such terror had breasted
"Still famid with her apron now knew hein not, dead"
And had gathered leaves to pillow his head
At length he raised up but not to his feet
a calm'd her heart beat
And ended the memory that traced her mind
(He had gone to sleep so stunned and so weak
She subsequently learned when he could speak)
"You saved my life" he piteously said
And risked your own greater loss would have made
"The cavity where the tree was uprooted
For a resting place her fancy still suited
Broke off little branches and strewing around
And made a clean carpet on the clayey ground
"Then helpid in her father who sat on the brink
Her apron took off and tied in a link
To rest more convenient and then to his arm
For she was yet fearful he might come to harm
"For fear By adventure she'd in cleination
To walk the ~~grass~~ pupilar now her intention
He tried to persuade her she'd better not go
Because of the danger of falling below way
"She knew that all people with him had their
So with little parley she soon had her say
"When midway her walk "Susanna" came shreak
She shoulder'd a trifle knew better than speak

"She got along safely till edging the bank
Then twank
Then twold of a limb yielding sleide and a
"Forbid further progress and there she stood still
A dream she once had Then came in a thrill
"She dreamid a revival had come in the land
Her Elders and seniors beleevid ile demand
They deemid it renewel of their vival time
When God in his goodness gave his gifts sublime
"She thought to be young it especially came
The preaching was faith in the Most Holy Name
The ministers all illumined within
In claxen proclaiming voice warned against sin
"A turbelent river rushid angry in view
And slashid by ile waves was a despairing crew
'Twas called the river of lifes carnal strife
Alluring to the fonrid sweetness of life
"A slim pole shanned a barked off white
Smooth
Comparing in look to a rope 'long the height
In notches of pole laid lowering in air
And "Who would it walk was there one any where"
"Who could walk that pole would be safe ever more
It led to the bank of victorious shore'
Was reiterated from evenlnanced height
And whose ministration was power and might
"She thought the first founders that peril walkid had"
And callid it the way that the Saviour had chalkid
And sung when passid over of eternal day
They many songe sung of that beautiful way

"She ran up the post and she hardly knew how
And there to the multitude made her firm vow

When her equals call'd her Their words were not clear
So heightened The distance from whence They were
"She judg'd from Their motions They would win her back
Doubling The courage Their thinking Themselves to lack
The crowd around mostly were Those of her years
The ministers such as beholder revere
"Successfully stepped till nearing The shore
When crook in The sand The peeled pole grieved her.
She thought if she'd step on the crook it would turn
And that a pool deep be her unfathomed urn
"Then breaking empused in raging towards roar
No river so large had she ever seen before
Tumultous The billows heaved purpling and gray
Wave encountered wave as each other to slay
"Yet rolled not as water Thought of The dead sea
Whose dread breath blighted both The herbage and tree
"Looked off on a beautiful land every where
Revolving The history of Canaan fair
Those Then she espied she Thought The redeemed
A sweet peace of spirit from their actions teemed
"They were in large company on shady green
As Though for festival appeared to convene
Were feasting on something each other greeting
A joyous communion seemed their meeting
"If she could get over with Them she would be.
From sin and life wages forever set free
"Lest being too far secluded to leap
Then nearly concluded to stoop down and creep
But could not get over The crook in That way
For in The past notch. pole had loose easy play

"Then nerved to such effort the crook to overglide
She broke a twig getting and walked up wide
She had shed her first teeth all sound as they came
And her second set until then were the same
"Twas a double twig that broke off in the strain
Another would have given that store to gain
That dream at times afterward troubled her thought
Lest in later life she would meet that long knot
But felt with relief it might now be fulfilled
In the old presentement this she so willed
"Thus conq'ring each danger till all disappeared
And safely through the tangled timber cleared
This side of the bank slanted down to the oval
For piece of the coal to take home to her stroll
"When getting her relic of the Big Altar
Retraced the poplar over its water
Attended her father assists him to rise
He walks up the hill with the support she supplies
"On four feet of oak stump like table saw'd off
(The dampness of evening excited his cough)
He sat there and rested he was very weak
They heard Willie whistling he comes them to seek

" " "

Next Day

"With face toward the east reflective in gaze
Susanna was prais'd with her thoughts many ways
Lived over the yesterday now neath the tree
Where Willie his instruments left in his glee
"Sled wooden horses and other boy treasures
And off with the dog adventurous sights measures

In flight over the grounds making aim for the wood
That in Briefly grandeur and stateliness stood
"Where she and her father traced north 'long the fence
While over the rails came the clovers' incense
That joined to the wheat on the left hand side
Without any fence to their union divide
"Revered the pasture in memory where
Was black little Jennet with her partial care
"And then over the garden that faced the street
A vegetable garden said to be neat
On north side was border of peach trees in row
The frost winter killed ere the bud or the blow
"Full clothed in leaf that showed no decay
But not sign of fruit in the leaves hid away
"Along the yard fence that joined to the street
Were fringed with Cherry trees ever not sweet
They were the Marilla that bear deer grow
Than the fairer Kinds that the country less know
"Depeet was not seen planted twelve years before
This learned about them and that they well bore
'Twas center an orchard in fresh flowing shade
That Susanna's vision its excursions made
"An apple orchard in her count thirty trees
Without a limb broken or sign of disease
Between the two dwellings the green yard combined
And made pleasant walk by a path to each mind
"The house on the west had its own garden too
That lay in the corner the cross roads in view
"The horses at eve by the barn were ungeared
Then led to the Spring and with bucket revered

"They would not drink after the hog or the cow
To only new bucket their niece heads would bow
The water that coursed around the milk room
Ascended in something she'd heard call'd a flume
"Like pump it without handle but having a spout
Where the water continue'ly was running out
And fell in a stream underneath in a trough
For hogs and the cows that the spring kept renew'd
"Inclined a little on its stools of stone
At the farther corner outlet like a cone
In this trough was chiseled and rippling went
Like little cascade through the passage way vent
"Till glittering down in another trough set
And fitted below for the currant to get
And which had its chiseled corner outlet
That kept out of sight till the Altar it met
"The first trough was set for the cows coming warm
When milking time came and the fleet to them swarm
The milk when 'twas milked was strained at the spring
And cool'd in the crocks that the stream round them ring
"A youth overseer winds his whip with a sing
And drives off the cows lest they muddy place bring
"Again lash in air quirl'd as snake in cane brake
And whizzel and crack with his voice to awake
The care of the swine on his way to the fence
The rails to let down where the woods do commence
"At length they come rushing long sided and high
The youth overseer is soon passed there by
The lower trough's muddled around with their mass
The youth keeping guard that no one imposes

When come to conclusion they have drank enough
We hurried them off in a manner some rough
They go as they come making their natural sound
The dog is on hand and their music is round
Again to the woods ere they root up the sod
Or bruise it and beat it till shows where they trod.

Now came on her mind what she once overheard
Concerning her father that anxiously stirr'd
With antic'pation what next would be said
As each sentence came through the atmosphere,
'Twas on a warm day with a newspaper mark'd
She'd gone to the Springhouse and unobserv'd hark'd
To two of the neighbors taken seat at th, spring
In substance recounting of hein theing by theing
(She had lock'd the door in the milk room were went,
Because often strangers their feet thither bent)
"Said one' glorious water' draining his cup
'Tis glorious water' beginning to sup
The other responded with satisfi'd snuff
His friend drank again with a smack y enough
"And said' Glorious' 'twas that a gen'rous soul
This current owned in its unbounded roll
When drought it would have famished both man and beast
Had then necessary demand been decreas'd
When far 'round this country the drought had dri'd
This Spring so refreshing our families bless'd
The owner his leisure spent 'neath the beach tree
For it gave him pleasure the comers to see

"The sweet little children with buckets that come
To get for themselves and their grandsires at home
The mama and baby and all a good drink
Their innocent askings in tears made him wink
"The lesp'd salutation "Good morning grand pa'
Has full compensation in their water to draw
For all they could carry away in their need
His welcome implying 'twas sufficient meed
"Good morning grand pa' in the reverent address
Each mingled'd to him he said more or less
For his was the heart that the needy ever knew
As friend and a neighbor was known to be true
"Hogshead and barrels from their springs oppesite
From morning till ev'ning gave in proposition
At night near the bottom sometimes it was low
But always next morning brim full was the flow
It watered all living in over thirsty times
From house to the beasts the field roams
And there sat the owner like "Beasm alone"
At spoiling his yard ere remonstrance not shown
"Though he had preserved the green with much care
And no doubt he felt it to see the harsh wear
The wheels of the wagons the grass cutting there
The slopping of drags washing out the roots bare'
Low lowered their voices some words could not hear
They talked in a tone as though fain were near
But on her attention came kindly and dear
The accents they uttered and pathetic were
"At last caught the syllables in substance here
Aware not intended should fall on her ear

And though at horse races he could lead the van
A child of four years had its will with that man
He never a foe I know of ever had
By gossip he never made any one sad to yield
"He made shrewdest bargains where pride had yield"
With money swell'd bodlings that held larger
But there is a cloud that ever hangs in his sky
When all else is bright this is told in his sight
"See strong than Goliah in bodily mold
What snare is suspicion again might be told"

"Her birth day in June in another week come
And she was prepared for her Shaker home
Her father and Willie went to the depot
To see her that far on her home journey go
"They stood on the pavement the whistle it screamed
As the bright locomotive the sunshine beamed
She entered its train with heart aching swell
Then met the twin hand for another farewell
"Of her feeble father with tears falling fast past
But she could not speak for the crowd coming,
She yielded her hand till the care grinding start
Gave sufficient warning that called them to part
"Then turning to look at the place whence they came
There saw little Willie and whispered his name.
"Her father in weak look and his blue streaming eyes,
From open car window beckoning she spies
He drove the same way as was going the train
And she look'd till nothing of him did remain
with look Susanna's
The farmer who lived in the same door yard,
her and brunt and her father and Willie to the depot to see her
in company { go to on the train
bid her home etc
other

"Then over the thick tree tops she saw the wheat green seen
Where her father's small hand had there pointing
The emerald extent the sun bathed in glow
And there seemed to rise a prophetic halo

... ...

"Now Susanna learned when nineteen months had past
From an old newspaper her eyes overcast
That her father was dead at Brazil interred
The deepest emotions of her heart were stirred
"On the same printed page were other deaths,
All differing in date unconcerned and cold
Not one in the column a kind word awarded
Not one goodly deed of their lives recorded
"In three little lines was the tribute there paid
To her deceased father in the damp earth laid
"But it felt to her something more should be
Of one whom the needy ever helped and fed
That her father's exit so briefly was penned
For him it was pleasure always to befriend
"And missive at length ventured in black and white
Not knowing exactly to whom she might write
"The letter was answered she was satisfied
"The meeting house filled and many outside
The pew'rs the largest ever seen in that town
And came from the country the people far down
"The preacher shed tears when the sermon preach did
Of his kindness speaking to all and to each
(For many years he had lived in that part
To every acquaintance dwelt love in his heart

And never with sermon had he ever servéd
Where seen were so many wet eyes he observéd
After the funeral informant so saíd
And kind recollections were naméd of the deaḋ
So oft manipulated" informant so daíd

She wrote after this concerning his last Will.
The tidings received her spirit díd thrill

(Thus) "The old lady had the saíd Will in her hands
And soon as were paséd the funeral demands
In haste then she sent it for legal advise
To our county seat" (in its altered splice)
"But they/we/was did some feeling that/Nun all was not right
That more than one person therein díd indite
By him discerned that it had not been sealéd
And interlinéd writing objections revealéd
"I hear that the probate threatens repeal
As he did'nt seal it rejects its perusal
"The old lady claims that he willéd all to her
And this she pleads witness to have him aver
"There is talk afloat about her strange actions
Excuses she makes and some think detractions
She's often repeating "He willéd all to me
None others have rights in the smallest degrée

"Susanna then wrote to this just dealing court
And anxiously waited the coming report
But answering letter to this never came
She waited two months then repeated the same

"On the second of May ⁂ from the Clerk received
What she had not doubted but fully believed
And in this last letter was inclosed a card
With names of officials of highest regard
From the Clerk's letter inclosing the card

⁂ "The Will of Isaac ⁂ was not probated"

"But soon came through growing into anxiety
And she showed M. letter to her Village Lawyer
"The Will" he decided was deemed false no doubt"
And patience advised till justice termed out
"Susanna that night when having reread
The Virginia clause of her letter in slumber expired came
"Her mother all through pitiful and fair blooming
With M. card in her hand of official signed name
Arrayed in such dress as a sun lighted cloud
Obedience yielding to what she had vowed
"But the obedience came not of her will
From a higher source 'twas her gift to fulfil
Could elemental time of sorrow be seen
Implying the mission she would rather screen
"Far sweeter than odors from the flowers of earth
Emitted a fragrance from the spirit world
"She carefully viewed the card with intent
Emotions of trust from her countenance went
"I was I am M. ⁂ a man of the law
On M. card she selected as Susanna saw
"Then dictated words for Susanna to send
As of him interceding his kindness to lend
"She wrote in the morning Mr. ⁂ the whole
Of her dream or vision unheeding control
⁂ 1877.

And six weeks she watched for answering word
And now longer waiting she could not afford
Examined the card for another name
And to chosen one wrote of her rightful claim
Yet while she wrote was her mother's fore finger
To + + pointing and there it did linger
"This letter was answer'd in light flowing hand
In gallant expression of sentence and bland
In winning persuasion of daintiest gleam
Bright widen'd in radience to one broad beam
"And she thought that it another required
Encouraged by what it contents inspired
Yet while she wrote her mother's fore finger
To + + pointed and there it did linger
"But pleased was Susanna with the Lawyer's speech
And wrote respectful phrases her language could break
Through her mother's presence would frequently
Some things in the future she was wont to make
"Yet she determined still to pursue
The ideal promise that in her mind grew
"A vow pique regret troubled Susanna's breast
And restless misgivings her heart heavy prest'd
She half repented what she did express
Half way hoped also it would miss its address
"But this long epistle was true to its aim.
As was its answer in the Clerk's brief Rest that came
"Yea this answering letter but What a Change
Her anticipations it did disarrange
As shade to the Moon or eclipse to the sun
Compared with the first whose glitter had won

In image* it stepped and stately it stood
Incomprehensible to her was its mood
But read and re-read it through inward she cried
Becoming convinced that she had been foiled

This Lawyer's letter in part

"I have not the time nor the patience" he said
"For the inclination" . . . she verily read
"With icy allusion to compensation
All chilling to her in th, frig'd information

"For she had been reared in free institution
And knew not the ways of outside solution.
A caution of lawyers her friends had discussed
But in high officials she could not distrust

"If Postmasters answer the questions we ask
Why then should Attorneys think it such a task"
She reasoned the diff. rence trivial perplexity
Then dropped the enigma for puzzlers to see

"That it should reverence to wait for one year
Had now to Susanna been made to appear
Ere raising disturbance about the Last Will"
For then would the law its requirements fulfil (twice

"And while respect rend, ring to him in this
She hoped that by waiting lucky turn might arise
To gain her a hearing in some gen. true heart
Who would for her act the Samaritan's part

* The image of a man that seemed to form out of the contents of the letter as she read it, and stood before her

"November now entered since this conclusion
When there came on it the following intrusion
Her sister arrived on business she claimed
At Susanna's home John W.+ she named

"In reference to a letter last Spring received
(with crowding troughs coming this Susanna grieved
Remembering her folly and sorrow of heart
When on suburbs ventured of the Lawyers' art)

"Meantime that her sister owned and confessed
That the said letter was to both them addressed
And differently adding "family list" by it asked
As in the Will seemed something hid or masked

"And that as Susanna was the oldest child
In their family record by birth right filed
The best she would be this business to transfer
And so it was agreeably left to her

"Susanna in spirit with new hope imbued
A large sheet of paper with history strewed
To John W.+ to be sent through the mail
Praying as she wrote that she might yet prevail

Susanna now learned that her sister had received a letter with a card inclosed the same as her own from the Clerk of the Court of Clay county, Indiana, And that she had chosen the name John W.+ on the card and written to him. As each letter came to him about the same time, and contained about the same thing, he wrote to them both under one, Addressing his letter to Mary at Dayton Ohio expecting her to read it and then send it to Susanna. as she (Susanna) was subsequently informed.

"For in the next week would her father be dead
A year to a day as the newspaper read
And to the same sister she punctually went
To show her the letter from there have it sent
"The sister she read it and said it would do
And then to the Postoffice started they two
That day had their father been deceased one year
That day it had rained but was now bright and clear
"They walked side by side to the Postoffice slide
Two stamps there were needed one each did provide

" " "

"Announcement bree on the iron flying wings
Of the conquering railroad ile message brings
From John W. in prompt kindly letter
But clasped Susanna's heart in aching fetter
"The blood in her veins it seemed ran cold
Imposelem so stalwart stood and so bold
"It rushed over her what her father had said
When she in Clay county at his homestead stayed
"Brought to of his conscience ear turned to his God
And shuddered to view the terrible fraud

" " "

"Extracts from John W.'s letter to Susanna
"Madam yours of recent date is now at hand
Your father's Will for you is badly planned
"No doubt you're laboring under false impression
Regarding its bree import or condition
"Therefore send you a copy of his 'Will'
As it is proved and entered and remains still
In which is given to Elizabeth his wife
His whole and real estate during her life"
June 22nd 1877.

"His whole real estate for Betsey her life
This now in Susanna would cause little strife
But she reads with horror that altered "Will"
Rejects the injustice ill sentences fill
She reasons and reflects till her heart seems still
And prophecy even has departed her skill
And though all astounded yet impulse inclines
To retrace the falsified altered lines

"Second"

"To my wife Elizabeth I Will and devise
My real estate and property as it lies
"To have and to hold and to sell the same
And convey said land for her own" that false claim
"Use and dispose of the means as may be best"
This show of his "Will" can't give her full rest
"For her own use and support" said he was sane
And this latest clause they repeat it again

"Third"

And "Third my personal property all
I Will and devise to my wife" may fall
Susanna she tries this "Will" to help out
By twisting its words a little about
"And thinks that her father if here had his say
These lines counterfeited by truth he would slay
"And she thought also of what he compiled
In "Will" in Clay county when read and decided
(Though 'twas nothing new he'd related that e'er
Particular to her in years gone before)
'Twas the knowledge in health he had ever revolved
That following his death no "Will" should be" volved

"But in his last sickness continually were
The pesterings of Betsy most grievous to bear
To make her a "Will" or he'd suffer for care
And she and her sister were all the help there

At length so restless in sickness and need
He made the concession 'gainst what he'd decreed
Just one day before she at his home arrived
And he hardly knew then how it was contrived

But when he consented a "Will" he would make
They propped him in bed pen'd his hope it would take
The all'ged "Will" reads "He was free from restraint"
When he was so weak had he pow'r to acquaint

The Witness of his former life and hard fate
He could only hope" he said that soon or late
Would justice be done to meet his inward pray'r
The interest of his heart centered there

Before his memory his children all came
In their infant forms as when he gave them names
But he was vapory all that sickness through
And little that transpired then could review"

This he had told her when he talk'd of his "will"
And showed her portion his word to pulpil
Picks up that forg'd "Will" and again reads it over
Her feelings resenting it though more and more
And after long pause of reasoning and thought
And hardly decided to settle on what

There came in a whisper "Without allay
There now is a justice in this world I employ"

To John W. + Susanna again wrote
To tell what remained of consequence in note

As she supposid in the history he sought
And so she related what she knew and thought
Most kindly he answered it and concise
And therein he did her counsel and advise
And information of desired amount
In future he offerid without cost or count
For what he had done to he asked no fee
The worth of his labor he gave to her free
Ere this she had learned though from other source
That Witness if the law was put into force
Would not fare so well for his oath in that case
And questioned he owned to its deface
That interlinid writing he knew out of place
But could not remember just what to erase
Susanna was told of one thing she could do
But then came the Ken of the Witness in view
The young and the bright the world promised fair
The noble the learned the lofty were there
Whose friendship had made happy hours for her
Invited and sought and would her prefer
To walk at their side when visiting went
And in their church meeting select place present
Decided 'twas better to suffer the wrong
Than to offend those she'd felt honorid among
And comes to her memory "Without allay
There now is a justice in their world di employ
She trusts in this justice that will intervene
In due evolution though to her unseen
Her father's property she knew was not great
But wanted her share in her respectful estate

could own it for mining or else for the rent
To act as she chose was her father's intent
He did not design she should leave her good home
He would not for all his see her from it roam
And neither would she for the wealth of the state
E'er wander away trusting in the world's fate

III

Now issued on Susanna's pensive survey
As the morning awakening welcomes the day
Her mother with record in regaining sight
Till comes in her presence to clairvoyant sight
And opens her record In the types known sign
Susanna saw verses engraved and fine ⁂
In her mother's Book Revolume illumined bright
First brought to her vision neath covering night
Occurrences past as the shadow and ray
Came flooding before in the changes of day
But not one syllable to utter could she
Though plain as her own manuscript appeared to be
From her mother's book glimpses had passed her brain
Ere this as the lightenings over the main
When in glancing moment shows expanses wide
And then back the heavy thick darkness doth roll
The previous year was her mind thus allured
But meant nothing definite ere she was assured

III

Now Susanna shuddered at her mother's touch
And for resentment of will it was too much

⁂ May second 1878

⁂ Not small but exquisit in form and finish

Her mind and her body seemed as it were
Compelled to subjection by her mothers prayer
She viewed her mother trying to inspire
Her form and her bearing and her attire
Her shining dress floated as cloud to the light
In its flowy folding of glittering white
She glowed in the vigor of fresh woman bloom
Exhaling a sweetness flesh cannot assume
Her soul breathed tender in sympathy deep
Susanna discerned she could easily weep
Her mother in attitude solemnly stood
Persuading by tokens of interceding mood
Developing emblems defined her will
Susanna this learnd from her mothers signs still
Her language conveyed no audible sound
Yet her information equivilents found
What in vocal sentence she wished to say
This symbol intelligence seemed her way
Sad settled the failure in her mothers face
Of this evident fixed lack in the now needed case
With drawing her hand from the book printed place
Her Susanna's eyes passes it to erase
Material obstructions to see thro beyond
And put in condition with her to respond
The book rearranged for Susanna to read
Though clear as the mid day she could not proceed
The lines and the letters and the words sublime
She could not repeat in the immortal rhyme
Susanna could read Through the card sent to her
In her mothers fingers in sensitive stir

But now to Susanna came hastening through
That from the pictures might the substance be brought
Which teemd in the colors and pulses of life
Its joys and its pleasures its conflicts and strife
Her slate and her pencil remembering too
And reaching she them to her near pillow drew
The mother accepted the effort through weak
Of her versed trial through the pictures to speak
In bed sitting up in her mother's arms twind
Was she when the book opend now on her mind
Describing commenced as well as she could
In times animation scenes came as they would
And two slates she filled eight verses in all
At this silent coming of her mother's call
Thence forth came her mother thereafter each night
Insisting that she must continue to write
Until she should copy what she would be told
Of what the pictures to her ideals told
The lamp needed not nor the skies lightings shed
Events emerged revivid memories led
Her eye lids were closed and dark was the Moon
But her inner sight saw in glow as full noon

opposite some pages have purposely

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